

#### **REMARKS**

Claims 1-14 are pending in the present application.

Applicant notes with thanks and appreciation that claims 7 and 8 and 10-14 were found to have allowable subject matter but were objected to as being dependant upon a rejected base claim.

Claims 1 and 3-6 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO97/48517 (*Larsson*) in view of US Patent 6045028 (*Martin*). Accompanying this response is the certified priority document. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully asserts that *Larsson* and *Martin* are not prior art and that claims 1 and 3-6 are patentable.

Claims 2 and 9 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Larsson* and *Martin* in further view of US Patent 5484315 (*Juengst*). *Larsson* and *Martin* are not prior art. *Juengst* does not teach or suggest an apparatus for welding with all the limitations of claim 2 or claim 9. Accordingly, these claims are patentable.

#### **CONCLUSION**

Having obviated the Examiner's objections, Applicant hereby seeks an early indication of allowance.

#### **REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF THE TERM**

Applicant respectfully requests an extension of the normal term which expired on July 30, 2003, for three months, to January 30, 2004.

Submitted herewith is a check for \$950 to cover the cost of the extension.

Any deficiency or overpayment should be charged or credited to Deposit Account Number 04-2219, referencing our Docket Number 11412.

Applicant: Rolf Larsson  
Serial Number: 09582003  
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Respectfully submitted,

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

*I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on January 30, 2004.*

Chrissy Stein  
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